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The process is so simple, that one workman can decompose one or more tons per day, dependent on the size of his vessels. As the Turkey-red work consumes from forty to two hundred and fifty tons annually, according to the extent of its establishment, it is of great importance to that valuable manufacture. I can claim no merit in merely decomposing muriate of soda by potash, that is a fact long known; what properly belongs to me is, being the first to point out to the trade a simple and unexpensive method of making their own alkali, without being at the expense of erecting additional premises, and extensive apparatus, required for the purpose of crystallizing; a common boiler and two or three other vessels being all that is requisite.

CHARLES CAMERON.

IV.—MEDICINAL EXTRACTS.

The THANKS *of the Society were voted to* J. HOULTON, *Esq. Grove Place, Lisson Grove, for his method of preparing* VEGETABLE EXTRACTS *for* MEDICINAL USE.

11, Grove Place, Lisson Grove,
March 25, 1826.

SIR;

I BEG to solicit the attention of the Society of Arts to specimens of Extracts of Medicinal Plants, which have been prepared without the aid of artificial heat, and in a more easy and economical method than that ordinarily employed, and which, at the same time, produces an article in no respect inferior to the extracts made in the usual way, but in many points very superior; and it ensures the preservation of the smell, flavour, and full medicinal power of the plant from which it is prepared; and, with care, the colour may be preserved in a very superior manner.

The process is not so liable to failure as the common way; in fact, failure to make a superior article is almost impossible.

No. 1. A dry extract of taraxacum.

No. 2. Extract of conium.

No. 3. Extract of conium in a dry state, to show the resinous fracture.

No. 4. Specimen of vegetable extract *(conium)*, in which attention has been paid to colour.

Should the Society deem the manufacture worthy their notice, I shall be happy to lay before them a fuller account of the process I adopt.

I am, Sir,
&c. &c. &c.
JOSEPH HOULTON, F.L.S.
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

It is well known to professional men, that the juices of almost all plants are more or less injured in their medicinal qualities, by being boiled down and evaporated in the usual way, to the consistence of extract.

At Apothecaries' Hall the evaporation is entirely effected by means of steam, so that the heat employed is under complete control; and in Mr. Barry's patent process, the evaporation is performed in vacuo.

Mr. Houlton's process is the following; the plant being bruised, is to be submitted to the action of a press, in order to squeeze out the juice, which is then to be strained through fine linen. The depurated juice is now to be poured to the depth of about one-eighth of an inch into an earthenware plate, or a glass dish, and is to be exposed to a constant current of air, by placing it on the inner sill of a window, and raising the sash about an inch. The constant current of air thus produced, occasions the rapid evaporation of the watery parts, and there remains a soft extract, retaining the colour, odour, and medical properties of the recent plant, with less alteration than by any other method. If the sun shines, a blind should be hung before the window, as vegetable juices are speedily changed by the action of solar light. The consistence given to the extract is entirely optional, but those that are rather hard will keep better than those that are soft.

The method is not adapted to a manufactory on a large scale; but any individual practitioner may, without much trouble or expense, prepare in this way, for his own use, extracts far superior, in active properties, to those that are usually met with.

V.—PREPARING LIME-JUICE.

The THANKS *of the Society were presented to* CAPTAIN BAGNOLD, *for the following Letter, and the samples of* LIME-JUICE *by which it was accompanied.*

SIR; Falmouth, July 12, 1825.

FROM some conversation I had with one or two of the members of the Transport Board, I find they are by no means satisfied with their knowledge of the effect produced on the antiscorbutic qualities of lime-juice, by the 25 per cent of rum, now added for its preservation. This